Surah 91 *Surah Shams*

THE SUN

THE LINK BETWEEN *SURAH SHAMS* AND THE PRECEDING *SURAHS*

Both *Surah Shams* and *Surah Layl* repeat the two themes of *Surah A'la*, viz. *Towheed* and abstaining from the temptations of this world. *Surah Shams* clearly differentiates between correct and erroneous beliefs, making it clear that these can never be the same. *Surah Layl* clarifies that fact that good and evil deeds can never be the same: a generous person cannot be equated to a miser, nor can a *Mu'min* be equated to a *Kaafir.*

A SUMMARY OF THE *SURAH*

In pointing out the contrasts between light and darkness, between day and night, and between the sky and the earth, the first ten verses describe the pure soul which is free from *kufr* and *Shirk* can never be compared to the evil soul which is contaminated with *kufr* and *Shirk.*

The remaining verses of the *Surah* cite the example of how the Thamud were destroyed when they rejected the belief in *Towheed* and failed to purify their souls. The same punishment awaits those individuals and nations who follow their example.

سُوْرَةُ الشَّمْسِ مَكِّيَّةٌ وَّهِيَ خَمْسَ عَشْرَةَ اٰيَةً

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ ○

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحٰهَا ۝١

1. By the *(oath of the)* **sun and its** *(shining)* **light!**

وَالْقَمَرِ اِذَا تَلٰهَا ۝٢

2. By the moon when it follows it *(the sun as night approaches)* **!**

وَالنَّهَارِ اِذَا جَلّٰهَا ۝٣

3. By the day when it illuminates *(brightens)* **it** *(the earth)* **!**

وَالَّيْلِ اِذَا يَغْشٰهَا ۝٤

4. By the night when it covers *(shrouds)* **it** *(the sun)* **!**

وَالسَّمَآءِ وَمَا بَنٰهَا ۝٥

5. By the sky and the One Who created it!

وَالْاَرْضِ وَمَا طَحٰهَا ۝٦

6. By the earth and the One Who spread it out!

وَنَفْسٍ وَّمَا سَوّٰهَا ۝٧

7. By the soul and the One Who perfected it...

فَاَلْهَمَهَا فُجُوْرَهَا وَتَقْوٰهَا ۝٨

8. ...and then inspired it with *(showed the soul all that entails)* **evil and** *(all that entails)* **piety** *(so that it may choose the path it wishes to follow)*.

قَدْ اَفْلَحَ مَنْ زَكّٰىهَا ۝٩

9. Undoubtedly, the one who purified it *(the soul from kufr, Shirk and all spiritual diseases)* **has succeeded...**

وَقَدْ خَابَ مَنْ دَسّٰىهَا ۝١٠

10. ...and the one who soiled it *(by involving it in kufr, shirk and sin)* **has certainly failed.**

كَذَّبَتْ ثَمُوْدُ بِطَغْوٰىهَآ ۝١١

11. The Thamud rejected *(the message of their Nabi)* **because of their rebelliousness** *(insolence)*.

اِذِ انْۢبَعَثَ اَشْقٰىهَا ۝١٢

12. *(Remember the time)* **When the worst** *(wretched one)* **of them** *(Qazar bin Salf)* **stood up** *(to kill the camel)*...

فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ نَاقَةَ اللّٰهِ وَسُقْيٰهَا ۝١٣

13. ...and the Rasool of Allaah *(Saalih عليه الصلاة والسلام)* **warned them, "Do not interfere with the camel of Allaah** *(the camel that Allaah created specially and which emerged from a rock)* **and its drinking"** *(turn which was specified)*.

فَكَذَّبُوْهُ فَعَقَرُوْهَا ۖ فَدَمْدَمَ عَلَيْهِمْ رَبُّهُمْ بِذَنْۢبِهِمْ فَسَوّٰىهَا ۝١٤

14. However, they rejected him *(his warning)* **and killed it** *(the camel)*. **So their Rabb annihilated them because of their sins and made their destruction widespread** *(so that none of them were spared)*.

وَلَا يَخَافُ عُقْبٰىهَا ۝١٥ ع ١٥ ١٦

15. *(Allaah does not fear the consequences)* **of His actions. Because of His immense wisdom in everything He does and because of His great power, none can hold Him accountable for anything**.